

NEWS

for immediate release



MARICOPA COUNTY
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CARBON MONOXIDE HIGH AIR POLLUTION SEASON ENDS WITH NO VIOLATIONS ***No Burn Season ends February 28, 1999***

Maricopa County will have met the national Clean Air standards for three consecutive years, for the first time since the standards were created in 1970. The last carbon monoxide exceedence in Maricopa County was in 1996.

Steven Peplau, Maricopa County Air Quality Manager said, "We cannot rest on this accomplishment. The programs currently in place to reduce air pollution will remain intact. With the rapid growth in the Valley, Maricopa County must continually seek reductions to maintain this level of air quality."

While Maricopa County is in compliance for carbon monoxide which occurs in the winter time, we still must take precautions to reduce other pollutants. Maricopa County is "serious" for particulate matter (PM10) pollution, which is a year-round concern.

Particulates are emitted to the air from vehicles, fuel burning, earthmoving, industrial activities, wood burning fireplaces, and by wind erosion of disturbed soil. Particulates generally affect the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Maricopa County has environmental regulations for dust which limits excessive amounts of particulates from industrial facilities and construction activities.

"Maricopa County is directing more resources toward enforcing particulate pollution and educating County residents and industry," said Peplau.

The EPA reclassified Maricopa County's PM 10 non-attainment area to "serious" on June 10, 1996. On March 20, 1998, the EPA proposed a Federal Implementation Plan to address the area's continuing particulate matter non-attainment problems. The Department developed a plan to eliminate deficiencies including the deployment of ten additional employees to do dust control work, developing training courses through community colleges and a training video for industry. The attainment date for the Phoenix area is currently December 31, 2001.

To help reduce PM10 pollution, Maricopa County recommends the following activities:

- Take steps to reduce dust from your business operations and facilities.
- Convert wood burning fireplaces to gas, electric or EPA approved fireplaces.
- If you have property with bare earth, cover it with gravel or restrict access to avoid disturbing the soil.
- Tarp trucks carrying debris.

For more information contact Maricopa County Environmental Services at 506-6700, or "Earth's 911" at 1-800-253-2687 or visit the Small Business Environmental Assistance homepage at www.maricopa.gov/sbeap.

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